

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

(with complete listing)

1. (Currently amended) A method for coupling a riser or umbilical to a moored floating body having a hull with a keel, the method comprising the steps of,

operatively-coupling a lower end of a tubular member to a subsea well so that an interior of said tubular member is in fluid communication with said subsea well,

longitudinally suspending an upper end of said tubular member from a first elevation above said hull, and

laterally supporting said tubular member at a second elevation at said hull, said second elevation fixed with respect to said hull.

2. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of, laterally supporting said tubular member below the waterline.

3. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of, laterally supporting said tubular member at an elevation generally corresponding to the elevation of said keel.

4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of, laterally supporting said tubular member at an outboard-facing surface of said hull.

5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of, laterally supporting said tubular member at an inboard-facing surface of said hull.

6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of, laterally supporting said tubular member at a surface of a moonpool in said hull.

7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of, receiving a portion of said tubular member in a bearing assembly fixed to said hull at said second elevation,

laterally supporting said tubular member by said bearing assembly, and
allowing longitudinal ~~axial~~-movement of said tubular member relative to said bearing assembly.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Previously presented) The method of claim 7 further comprising the step of, allowing side entry of said tubular member into said bearing assembly.

10. (Previously presented) The method of claim 7 further comprising the step of, allowing vertical entry of said tubular member into said bearing assembly.

11. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of, tensioning said tubular member.

12. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of, suspending said tubular member at a generally vertical orientation.

13. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of, suspending said upper end of said tubular member from an elevation above the waterline.

14. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of, suspending said tubular member by a spring.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of, receiving said tubular member in a vertical passage formed through said hull, and laterally supporting said tubular member in said vertical passage.

17-22. (Cancelled)

23. (Currently amended) A floating body comprising,
a submerged buoyant hull having a keel,

a column having a lower end coupled to said hull, said column extending above the waterline,

a deck coupled to an upper end of said column,

a mooring device having an upper end coupled to said hull and a lower end coupled to the seabed,

a bearing assembly having a vertically oriented generally cylindrical passage therein and fixed to an exterior surface of said hull,

a tensioner coupled to said floating body and disposed at an elevation above said hull, and

a tubular member having a lower end ~~operatively~~ coupled to a subsea well so that an interior of said tubular member is in fluid communication with said subsea well, and said tubular member having an upper end longitudinally suspended by said tensioner, said tubular member passing within said passage of said bearing assembly and laterally supported by said bearing assembly.

24. (Previously presented) The floating body of claim 23 wherein, said mooring device is generally vertically oriented and tensioned by said buoyant hull.
25. (Previously presented) The floating body of claim 23 wherein, said tubular member is generally vertically oriented and tensioned by said buoyant hull.
26. (Previously presented) The floating body of claim 23 wherein, said bearing assembly is designed and arranged to provide lateral support to said tubular member while allowing said tubular member to move in a longitudinal direction within said bearing assembly.
- 27-29. (Cancelled)

30. (Previously presented) The floating body of claim 23 wherein,
said bearing assembly includes a longitudinal slot which communicates with said passage
and which is designed and arranged to allow side entry of said tubular member.
31. (Previously presented) The floating body of claim 23 wherein,
said bearing assembly is disposed at an elevation generally corresponding to the elevation
of said keel.
32. (Previously presented) The floating body of claim 23 wherein,
said bearing assembly is disposed at an elevation generally corresponding to the elevation
of said upper end of said mooring device.
33. (Cancelled)
34. (Previously presented) The floating body of claim 23 wherein,
said tensioner is disposed above the waterline.
35. (Previously presented) The floating body of claim 23 wherein,
said tensioner is disposed on said deck.
36. (Currently amended) A floating body comprising,
a submerged buoyant hull having a keel,
a column having a lower end coupled to said hull, said column extending above the
waterline,
a deck coupled to an upper end of said column,
a mooring device having an upper end coupled to said hull and a lower end coupled to the
seabed,
first and second apertures each being vertically formed through said hull and having a
closed vertical periphery throughout the extent of said aperture through said hull.

first and second tensioners each coupled to said floating body and disposed at an elevation above said hull,

a first tubular member having a lower end in fluid communication with a subsea well and an upper end suspended by said first tensioner, said first tubular member passing within said first aperture, and

a second tubular member having a lower end in fluid communication with a subsea well and an upper end suspended by said second tensioner, said second tubular member passing within said second aperture.

37. (Previously presented) The floating body of claim 36 wherein, said mooring device is generally vertically oriented and tensioned by said buoyant hull.

38. (Cancelled)

39. (Previously presented) The floating body of claim 36 further comprising, a bearing assembly disposed between said first tubular member and said first aperture, said bearing assembly designed and arranged to provide lateral support to said first tubular member while allowing said first tubular member to move in a longitudinal direction within said first aperture.

40. (Cancelled)

41. (Previously presented) The floating body of claim 36 wherein, said first tensioner is disposed above the waterline.

42. (Previously presented) The floating body of claim 36 wherein, said first tensioner is disposed on said deck.

43-44. (Cancelled)

45. (Original) The floating body of claim 23 wherein,

said bearing assembly is disposed at an outboard-facing surface of said hull.

46. (Original) The floating body of claim 23 wherein,

said bearing assembly is disposed at an inboard-facing surface of said hull.

47. (Original) The floating body of claim 23 wherein,

said bearing assembly is disposed in a moonpool in said hull.